

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 17232 151125Z
ACTION SY-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 /010 W
-----072181 151137Z /10
R 151035Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6328

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 17232

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: ARMORED VEHICLES

1. PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK ASKED ME THIS MORNING ABOUT PROCURING TWO ARMORED VEHICLES FOR THE KING OF THAILAND. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WISHED TO PROVIDE THE KING WITH A LIMOUSINE AND A WAGGONER OR LANDROVER FOR RURAL TRAVEL.
2. I SAID THAT NO AMERICAN CAR MANUFACTURERS PRODUCED ARMORED VEHICLES AND THAT BULLET-PROOFING OF CARS WAS DONE BY COMPANIES WHO SPECIALIZED IN THIS KIND OF WORK. THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE BOUGHT ORDINARY VEHICLES WHICH WERE SUBSEQUENTLY MODIFIED. I SAID THAT I WOULD SEEK THE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AND THAT CHARGE O'DONOHUE WOULD BE GLAD TO GIVE HIM OUR RECOMMENDATIONS AFTER MY DEPARTURE. AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT I ASKED WHETHER THE BULLET-PROOFING OF ONE OF THE EXISTING ROYAL CARS MIGHT NOT BE A POSSIBILITY AND WHETHER THE JOB COULDN'T BE DONE HERE. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THIS WOULD CERTAINLY BE FEASIBLE PROVIDED SOMEONE WHO KNEW HIS CRAFT WERE HERE TO SUPERVISE.

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3. COMMENT: THE PALACE HAS A LARGE FLEET OF LATE MODEL LIMOUSINES INCLUDING SEVERAL ROLLS ROYCE AND MERCEDEZ-BENZ MODELS.
4. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE SY INFORMING US OF PROCEDURES FOLLOWED IN ARMOR PLATING VEHICLES IN THE WASHINGTON AREA AND COST OF MODIFYING A SEVEN

PASSENGER MODEL "600" MERCEDES-BENZ VEHICLE. BELIEVE
CONSIDERATION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO MODIFYING ONE
OF THE EXISTING PALACE CARS EITHER HERE OR IN THE
U.S.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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